

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
DALLAS DIVISION**



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**The Criminal Justice Act Voluntary Panel Program**

The objective of the Criminal Justice Act ("*CJA*") Voluntary Panel Program is to increase the quality of representation for those defendants financially unable to obtain counsel in federal criminal cases. The Panel consists of approximately 250 attorneys who meet qualifications for membership on the Panel and who represent a cross-section of the attorney population in the Dallas Division.

An applicant to the CJA Panel Program should:

- be a member in good standing in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas and the State Bar of Texas;
- have at least four years of experience as a licensed attorney;  
and
- have sufficient civil or criminal trial experience, or other comparable litigation experience, to furnish quality representation.

In addition to these qualifications, applicants must (i) be willing to serve for at least three years, (ii) accept a minimum of one appointment per year for the full range of federal criminal offenses, and (iii) participate in annual federal criminal law training. With few exceptions, the appointments include representation on appeal. Panel members may be required to appear in court on short notice for certain preliminary felony matters (i.e., initial appearances, bail and detention hearings).

The current rate of pay for court-appointed attorneys is \$45.00 per hour for out-of-court time and \$65.00 per hour for time in-court. In certain complex cases, a CJA Panel member may be eligible for interim payments of attorney's fees.

Judges in the Dallas Division approve attorneys for inclusion on the CJA Panel. Selected attorneys will be notified by mail.